

M Hawaii MARINE

VOLUME 37, NUMBER 45

THOMAS JEFFERSON AWARD WINNING METRO FORMAT NEWSPAPER

NOVEMBER 23, 2007



Jumping
A-3



Bay
B-1



Sports
C-1

Key Volunteer receives award

Lance Cpl. Alesha R. Guard

Combat Correspondent



ALISON HADZIC

As the 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, Key Volunteer Coordinator, Mrs. Hadzic has contacted many incoming families, welcoming them to MCBH and introducing them to the Key Volunteer Network. She recruits new Key Volunteers to help keep 1/3 families in touch, informed and involved. She has professionally handled unpredictable and varying issues that have arisen within 1/3 families. She has created a sense of family and unity within the 1/3 spouses, which helps them to face the upcoming deployment not as individuals, but as part of a larger family, who have other family members there to support them...

— Maj. Jeffrey C. Holt, executive officer, 1/3

With her differing roles in assisting 1/3 families throughout the base as well as military families off base, Alison Hadzic won the Navy League's 2007 Spouse Recognition Award.

The Navy League presented her with the award Nov. 9, at the Honolulu Mayor's Office at City Hall. There were seven award recipients, one from each branch of service including the Hawaii National Guard and Air National Guard. Recipients won a certificate of appreciation as well as a \$1,000 check.

Hadzic began supporting 1/3 as a Key Volunteer and Lifestyle Insights, Networking, Knowledge and Skills volunteer in 2005, and continues as the Key Volunteer Coordinator to this day.

"I've never met someone so willing to give of herself and her time whenever she sees a need," said Beth Bierman, fellow KV. "She's so much fun to work with. She's a great friend and mother who brings so much to the KV and LINKS network."

As a LINKS mentor, she helps spouses and families understand military life. Through the classes she prepares them for the challenges of being a military spouse.

"I think LINKS helps the new military spouse understand their Marine's job better, as well as prepares them for when their husband deploys," Hadzic said.

She said it's crucial to prepare one's family for challenges such as deployments and new experiences that come with a military life.

"If well prepared, a family will run into fewer hurdles," Hadzic explained.

In May 2006, Hadzic continued to volunteer, becoming the LINKS installation trainer. She now trains others to become future LINKS mentors and teach future LINKS classes. MCBH is the home of the LINKS program on Oahu, providing other bases and military families with mentors.

"I try to give trainees options to reach each individual spouse," Hadzic said. "The best way to connect with the spouses is to understand that they are all different and from various walks of life."

Once again, Hadzic took on another role as an instructor for the "Budget for Baby" class at the Navy/Marine Corps Relief Society. The class teaches expecting parents how to financially deal with a new baby.

See AWARD, A-7



Courtesy Photo

General James T. Conway, Commandant of the Marine Corps, presented Sgt. Eric Roeder and Sgt. Maj. Roy Smith the 2007 Commandant's Aviation Trophy for Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 363 Oct. 20, in Reno, Nevada.

Red Lions receive this year's Commandant's Aviation Trophy

Lance Cpl. Alesha R. Guard

Combat Correspondent

Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. James T. Conway presented the Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 363 Red Lions with the 2007 Commandant's Aviation Trophy Oct. 20, in Reno, Nevada.

The Marine Corps Aviation Association established the trophy in 1969, which recognizes the best overall performance and accomplishment of tasks by a Marine aviation squadron.

"I've been in the squadron the past five years, and I've seen great things from both the aviation and maintenance side," said Sgt. Nicholas Davidson, crew chief instructor, S-3, HMH-363. "I don't think we get recog-

nized enough for it, and it's about time."

The squadron's record speaks for itself. "During OIF 07-05.2, the squadron flew 4,026 hours maintaining 87.3 percent readiness," said Lt. Col. Hugh Tillman, commanding officer, HMH-363. "I think what set this squadron apart was the readiness rates out of Iraq, being mishap free. Other squadrons have accomplished the same things, but unfortunately have had mishaps along the way. Anyone in Marine Aviation would understand that number to be pretty significant. On any given day here we're at about 80 percent, so being over in Iraq and averaging about 90 percent is pretty significant."

Flying that many hours in such a condensed time frame is an accomplishment in itself, Tillman said.

"That amount of flight hours was flown in a sixth month period, 4,026 hours," Tillman said. "That is normally flown back home throughout four years. So that's a fairly significant number in Marine aviation as well."

Even before deployment to Iraq this year, the Red Lions helped save the hard-to-reach mountainous areas of Oahu from burning, the award cited.

"During local fires in September, our fire-bucket operations dropped tens of thousands of gallons of water on fires in Oahu," Tillman said.

The Red Lions felt really good about finally being recognized for their accomplishments, Davidson said.

"I think the award is just a testament

See TROPHY, A-7

Operation Homefront success with deployed family members



Patrons of the family movie night held by Marine Corps Community Services' Operation Homefront wait in line Sunday to get tickets.

**Story and Photo by
Pfc. Achilles Tsantarliotis**

Combat Correspondent

Spouses and family members of deployed service members attended Operation Homefront's second movie night Sunday at the base theater here.

The theater hosted activities for kids before a free showing of "The Game Plan," featuring Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson.

"We had a [moon bounce] for the kids before the movie," said Deborah Bruns, theater manager. "Capri Sun and popcorn was also provided for them to enjoy during the movie."

Operation Homefront is for family members of deployed

See SUCCESS, A-7

Warrior culture honored



Christine Cabalo

Don Soldier Eagle (left) and Joe Hacker perform several dances for the Nov. 20 American Indian Heritage Luncheon at Anderson Hall. Representatives from 808NDNZ dance group demonstrated ceremonial dances, including the jingle dance.

— NEWS BRIEFS —

Santa’s Village coming soon,
needs volunteers

Marine Corps Base Hawaii families can visit Santa’s Village Dec. 1 from 9 a.m. to noon at the Child Development Center. The visit includes free photos with Santa, holiday arts and crafts, a boun- cy house, family entertainment and free refresh- ments.

Santa’s Village needs volunteers and invites everyone to be a part of the magic. Volunteers can help decorate before and during the event, help with arts and crafts, serve refreshments, take pho- tos and greet families.

For more information, contact Marine and Family Services at 257-7790.

Base Pride Day

This year’s Base Pride Day is Nov. 29, and the Base Inspectors Office asks that base housing occu- pants do a thorough cleanup, grounds mainte- nance around the home and report necessary repairs to your property management office.

Marine Corps Base Hawaii units will have desig- nated areas for cleanup and maintenance, and through combined efforts the goal is to provide a clean and safe environment.

For more information, call the Base Inspector’s office at 257-8861.

IPAC, G1, DEERS, Base Post Office Closure

Due to an official function, IPAC, DEERS, the Base Post Office and G1 close at 11:30 on Nov. 30.

Civil War Expert to Hold Discussion

Renowned civil war historian and History Channel featured guest Ed Bears is holding a round table dinner and discussion at the Hale Koa Hotel Dec. 5 at 6:30 p.m.

The topic is the Battle of Franklin, Tenn., "Five Tragic Hours." The event is open to the public and costs \$28, which includes dinner.

For more information or to make reservations, call Damian Paul at 261-8663 or e-mail damian- paul@hawaii.rr.com.

Christmas Tree Lighting

The annual Christmas tree lighting is Dec. 2 at Dewey Square at 5 p.m. The base commander invites the local community to join Marines, Sailors, civilian workers and family members to help celebrate this holiday event.

Seating at Dewey Square is limited, so you might want to bring a lawn chair or similar alternative.

Hawaii Marine Accepts Letters

Hawaii Marine invites its readers to e-mail its edi- tor at hmeditor@hawaiimarine.com with their comments and letters.

All submissions will be edited for clarity and length. Comments must be signed with a full name and a telephone number.

Hawaii Marine also accepts news briefs contain- ing relevant information pertaining to Marine Corps Base Hawaii.

Important Phone Numbers:

On-Base Emergencies	911
Military Police	257-7114
Child Protective Service	832-5300
Fraud, Waste, Abuse & EEO	257-8852
Business Management Hotline	257-3188
Pothole & Streetlight Repair	257-2380
Base Information	449-7110
MCBH Duty Chaplain	257-7700
DEERS	257-2077

Hawaii MARINE

www.mcbh.usmc.mil

Commanding Officer
Base Sergeant Major
Public Affairs Officer
Deputy Director
Public Affairs Chief
Managing Editor
Press Chief
Layout/Design Editor
Photojournalist
Combat Correspondent
Combat Correspondent
Combat Correspondent
Combat Correspondent
Combat Correspondent
Combat Correspondent
Combat Correspondent

Col. M. A. Dungan
Sgt. Maj. Daniel J. Fierle
Maj. Christopher M. Perrine
1st Lt. Binford R. Strickland
Sgt. Demetrio J. Espinosa
Ken Griffin
Sgt. Macario P. Mora Jr.
Priya S. Jenkins
Christine Cabalo
Cpl. Rick Nelson
Cpl. Chadwick deBree
Cpl. Mark Fayloga
Lance Cpl. Regina Ruisi
Lance Cpl. Brian Marion
Lance Cpl. Ronald W. Stauffer
Lance Cpl. Alesha R. Guard
Pfc. Achilles Tsantariotis

Hawaii Marine is an authorized publication for members of the Department of Defense.

Hawaii Marine is published by MidWeek Printing, Inc., a pri- vate firm in no way connected with the U.S. Marine Corps, under exclusive contract to the U.S. Marine Corps.

Contents of *Hawaii Marine* are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the United States Government, the Department of Defense or the U.S. Marine Corps.

The appearance of advertising in *Hawaii Marine*, including inserts and supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the DoD, Department of the Navy or the U.S. Marine Corps of the products or services advertised.

Everything advertised in *Hawaii Marine* shall be made avail- able for purchase, use, or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation, or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.

Editorial content or public service announcements (i.e., all content other than paid advertisements) is edited, prepared and provided by the Public Affairs Office aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii. Opinions expressed are not to be considered an official expression of the DoD, DoN or the USMC.


Submit items for *Hawaii Marine* to the managing editor no later than noon on the Friday prior to publication, using the fol- lowing address:

HAWAII MARINE, Box 63062, Building 216,
MCB HAWAII, KANEOHE BAY, HAWAII 96863
E-MAIL: HMEDITOR@HAWAIIAMARINE.COM
FAX: 257-2511, PHONE: 257-8836

Thanksgiving address

Thanksgiving is a time when we Americans pause to give thanks for all the wonder- ful blessings bestowed upon us. Normally we travel to or gather at a relative or friend’s home to share this holiday. Regardless of how we will celebrate Thanksgiving this year let us pause and give thanks because we all have so much to be thankful for. We have the privilege of being able to physically and mentally serve our great nation. We are truly blessed to be from a country that not only has prospered but one that enjoys the free- doms that are denied to others. Our service no matter where we are on Thanksgiving Day has a purpose. That purpose is to protect those precious freedoms and enable oth- ers to also realize those freedoms.

As we celebrate this holiday perhaps far from our loved ones or in the comfort of our own homes, we should remember that ours is a small sacrifice to pay especially when compared to the many Americans serving in Iraq and Afghanistan that may have to pay the ultimate sacrifice. I want to thank you all for your commitment and continued serv- ice to your God, our country, and this enduring mission that we all support. I want to also thank your families for the sacrifices they have made in order for you to continue to serve our great nation. Semper Fidelis.


M. A. DUNGAN
Colonel, U. S. Marine Corps
Commanding Officer, Marine Corps Base Hawaii



Chaplains Corner

The Loving Arms of a Parent

Commentary by
Chaplain Brian Hill

Base Chaplain

Just the other night, an ordi- nary event became an amazing experience.

Anyone who is a parent or has ever calmed a crying child by holding them in their arms will know exactly what I mean.

I had put my 13-month-old daughter to bed about a half hour before, but now she was awake and crying.

After waiting a few minutes to see if she would go back to sleep on her own, I went into her room to check on her and there she was standing at the rail of her crib, arms out- stretched, using every bit of her lung capacity.

I reached down and picked her up, just as I had many other nights in her short life, held her

in my arms and almost instant- ly the crying stopped.

Then it hit me – what an amazing thing had just occurred. Simply by holding my daughter in my arms, she was comforted and soothed and as she rested her head on my shoulder everything in her world was now all right.

I wondered what thoughts might be going through her head. Was she lonely when she woke up and wanted someone else near her? Was she afraid and needed a comforting pres- ence? Was she cold and needed the warmth of another person? Or was it simply that she was a child and wanted to know she was still in the presence of her parents?

As I sat in her room rocking her back to sleep, I reflected on how often we are like my daughter. As we go through our

lives, many circumstances cause us to stand at the crib rail, crying out for all we’re worth, with arms outstretched for someone to come and com- fort us. Do we have anyone who can calm our fears, fill our loneliness, warm the coldness we have taken on from the world and wrap us in arms of love?

My answer to you is yes. In many places we are spo- ken of as God’s children. And just as earthly parents seek to comfort and take care of their children, God will take care of His children.

He will come into the cir- cumstances of your life, pick you up, wrap you in arms of love and comfort you even in the midst of the most difficult circumstances.

Just as I didn’t run to my daughter the instant she started



HILL

crying, so God may allow you to endure for a time. But He has promised to never leave or for- sake those who trust in Him. He will come. He will pick you up. And as you rest on Him, His loving arms can make every- thing in your world all right.

Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.
Proverbs 3:5,6

Habbaniyah shining example of progress



Commentary by
Maj. Chris Perrine

Public Affairs Officer

I couldn’t believe my eyes when I read “They’re ready for some football” in the Nov. 16 issue of the Hawaii Marine.

The article was about Iraqis playing soccer in Habbaniya, Iraq, in the western al Anbar province where the Marine Corps operates. The fact that Iraqi civilians were openly playing a game as part of a league of 20 teams may seem like no big deal to the average reader, but if you were there a

year ago you would be shocked.

I went to Habbaniyah a few times during March and April 2006, and it was an “exciting” place to be. The greater Habbaniyah area is a mixture of small towns and agricultural land along the Euphrates River, and the constant threat of a sniper or mortar attack, road- side bomb or ambush loomed large for Iraqis and Americans alike.

U.S. and Iraqi Security Forces had seen recent success in the volatile area, and my job was to provide positive, alter- native stories for reporters who were usually interested in the typical Baghdad stories about improvised explosive devices. We wanted to show them the progress Americans and the ISF could make together.

Not long before I visited Habbaniyah for the first time, Coalition Forces had estab- lished Combat Outpost Dunlap across the Euphrates from the main base. The outpost was named after Marine Sgt. Dunlap, who had been killed in combat with insurgents in

an agricultural area dominated by the enemy.

The Coalition brought sta- bility to the area by establish- ing the COP. My command wanted the media to see this success first-hand; we also wanted them to see that the Iraqi military had made great strides in terms of capability, and was taking increasing responsibility for fighting the insurgents.

I also showed the media the other side of Habbaniyah. Two outposts were dark examples of the desperate struggle for the region’s future. COP ASP was manned by a U.S. Army Military Transition Team of approximately 15 Soldiers embedded as an advisory group in an Iraqi battalion.

That team had seen every single member wounded at least once. The outpost, along with COP Buckeye, was subject to daily sniper and mortar attacks. The teams operating near the two outposts were under the incessant threat of ambush, and every inch of road was a possible place to conceal a bomb.

Even parts of the main base at Habbaniyah were threat- ened by sniper and mortar attacks because of a shanty town teeming with insurgents on the other side of the base’s wall.

I remember taking a cable television news crew to COP Buckeye one day. We didn’t even make it out of the gate when our convoy of armored Humvees was stopped because an American unit was ambushed in a small town we had to drive through. We watched across the open desert as helicopter gunships attacked the enemy a few miles away, while heavy artillery behind us pounded at the insurgents.

A couple hours later we finally made it to the outpost, which was basically a house on the outskirts of town.

If you went on the roof or walked outside the house, you could get shot by snipers on the other side of the river. The house was near a bridge, and the enemy liked to place bombs there to catch the Marines as they drove back

See *PROGRESS*, A-7

Weekend weather outlook

Today



Day — Isolated showers. Partly cloudy, with a high near 84. Breezy, with a east wind around 21 mph. Chance of precipita- tion is 20 percent.

Night — A 20 percent chance of show- ers. Partly cloudy, with a low around 73. East wind around 17 mph.

High — 84

Low — 73

Saturday



Day — Scattered showers. Partly cloudy, with a high near 83. East wind around 17 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30 percent.

Night — A 20 percent chance of showers. Partly cloudy, with a low around 73. North wind around 10 mph.

High — 83

Low — 73

Sunday



Day — Scattered showers. Partly cloudy, with a high near 83. North wind between 10 and 13 mph. Chance of pre- cipitation is 30 percent.

Night — A 20 percent chance of showers. Partly cloudy, with a low around 73. East wind around 13 mph.

High — 83

Low — 73

It’s a bird, it’s a plane

4th Force Recon takes to skies

Story and Photos by Lance Cpl. Regina A. Ruisi

Combat Correspondent

Marines from 4th Force Reconnaissance Company practiced parachute operations at Schofield Barracks Nov. 5 - 9.

Twenty-one Marines refreshed their skills on static and free fall parachute operations, jumping out of a C-17 airplane over a muddy drop zone after extensive refresher courses and safety briefs at Waterfront Operations aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii.

On the DZ, Sgt. Brett Boyd, parachute rigger, 4th Force Recon, took charge, ensuring it was safe for jumpers.

“At the DZ, my job is to worry about the wind’s speed and gusts, the condition of the DZ and obstacles that are at the DZ,” Boyd said. “Before they jump, I look at the DZ for safety hazards, like fluids they can slip on.”

Recon Marines were just as safety conscious in the aircraft before they jumped, checking and rechecking parachutes and equipment before stepping out of the back of the plane. For static jumps, parachutes were attached to a cable and immediately deployed when the jumper exited the aircraft.

“We check the cables to make sure they’re not frayed,” Boyd said. “We make sure there’s no abrasions on the door that could cut the lines. Two jumpmasters check each jumper’s equipment before they jump. Safety is really important. We brief the crew before a jump to make sure the plane is going at the right speed. The pilots always know what they’re doing, but we want to double check.”

Jumpmasters check free-fall jumpers as well, making sure cords aren’t wrapped around jumpers, ensuring reserve parachutes are protected and securing loose lines on the jumper.

“Protecting the reserve parachute is important because if it’s pulled while in the plane, it can suck the jumper, and everyone in front of them, out of the plane,”

Boyd said. “Unsecured lines can get caught on the side of the plane when a jumper exits the aircraft and they can get stuck to the side of the plane. There’s always two of us checking all the gear.”

Once out of the aircraft, it’s up to the jumpers to ensure their own safety.

“Maintaining tight body positioning is important,” Boyd said. “Keeping knees and ankles together helps prevent injuries.”

Common injuries Marines sustain are broken ankles or legs. A Marine who doesn’t keep their legs together will break their leg, said Sgt. Justin Burkett, DZ control, 4th Force Recon.

The Marines jumped with a new static-line parachute they had never used before, the round FS-10. The parachute is an upgrade from ‘chutes the jumpers learned with at jump school.

“This is the first time a lot of these Marines have control of their parachutes alone,” Boyd said. “A lot of these guys haven’t jumped the FS-10 before. Going from the old ‘chutes to the new one is like going from a dump truck to a sedan. Then you move up to free fall and that’s more like a Ferrari.”

Free-fall ‘chutes are rectangular in shape, and are more accurate than static line parachutes because Marines have better control over them. Recon Marines who do free-fall jumps can use global positioning systems to navigate them to an area as small as a rooftop. The goal for static-line jumpers is to be within 15 feet of each other.

“Static-line jumpers fall at a rate of 18 feet per second, so static-line ‘chutes are used to hurry up and get jumpers to the ground,” Burkett said. “Free fall, you go forward and down at the same time, so they’re better for covering a lot of ground.”

The Marines doing static-line jumps exited the aircraft over the DZ at 1,200 feet. Free-fall jumpers jumped at 10,000 feet.

Regardless of the type of jump, every jumper has a radio, water and chow on their person. This is in case a Marine gets lost and needs to fend for themselves until a rescue, Boyd said.

No Marines needed rescue, however, and they hit the DZ without injury. The training went successfully and continued throughout the week despite the rain and mud puddles.



Marines take safety precautions while landing during a jump. Keeping knees and ankles together while landing can help prevent broken bones.



Marines jumped from a C-17 with FS-10 static-line parachutes Nov. 7 through 9 at Schofield Barracks. The jump was the first time most of the Marines had used the new parachutes, which allow greater control.



Twelve Marines jumped with static-line parachutes from 1,200 feet, and nine Marines jumped from 10,000 feet with free-fall parachutes at Schofield Barracks, Nov. 7.



Reconnaissance Marines are trained in both static-line and free-fall jumps. After a jump, Marines quickly clear the drop zone, taking all their gear with them, to get out of the way for the next stint of jumpers.



Marines with Company G, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, walk down ‘IED Lane’ at Camp Wilson here Nov. 9. Before walking down the lane, the Marines and Sailors received a class on identifying, marking and reporting improvised explosive devices.

Golf Company takes trip down IED lane

Story and Photos by
Cpl. Chadwick deBree

Combat Correspondent

MCAGCC TWENTYNINE PALMS, Calif. — Being able to identify, mark and deal with an improvised explosive device are some of the most crucial skills Marines need to survive in combat.

And that’s exactly what Marines and Sailors with Company G, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, learned here at Camp Wilson Nov. 9 during IED classes.

The classes, also known as IED Lane Training, are part of the Mojave Viper Exercise, where Marines

complete training necessary to deploy and survive in Iraq.

"I've realized we get this training all the time, but it's a good thing," said 2nd Lt. Marc Hillard, platoon commander, 1st Platoon, Golf Co., 2/3. "It's all repetition. It gets embedded in their heads and will ultimately help us out when we're in country. It's very important to get it in their skulls."

Marines learn IED types and how to identify them on patrol. After the class, they walked down the 30-foot "IED Lane" to identify eight different types of IEDs.

"A majority of the Marines were able to identify all of the IEDs," said

Hillard, a 25-year-old native of Riverside, Calif. "Some of them said that they found up to 15 IEDs down that lane, even though there were only eight, but that's a good thing because that means that they're really looking out for what could potentially be an IED."

Hillard said the practical application of finding IEDs was a success because of leadership from the veterans of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2/3.

"Those guys are really key in helping out the newer Marines, especially on IEDs," Hillard said. "They've really taught them what to look for and because of that they're getting better at pointing out the IEDs. In fact, there are newer types of IEDs out there and the veterans are learning about them here. They're able to pick up newer stuff quick and help

out the newer Marines."

The veteran Marines said the training they're receiving here has improve since last year.

"It's a lot more efficient and it's getting a lot more realistic here," said Lance Cpl. Daniel Hilsdorf, squad leader, 1st Platoon, Golf Co., 2/3, and a 20-year-old native of Dumont, N.J. "They're using ... more examples and much more intel to show us what we should be looking for. They're even showing us things that developed in country since the last time we've been there."

The junior Marines appreciate the senior Marines, who are taking their time to teach them their experiences from previous OIF deployments.

"They're great teachers and great mentors for us," said Pfc. Daniel M. Vallejo, pointman, 1st Platoon, Golf



A Marine stands over a remote controlled IED hidden under a mound of dirt Nov. 9, at Camp Wilson here.

Co., 2/3. "They talk to us about their experience and how things over there are changing little by little and how this will be the best training that we will ever go through before we head over."

"I can't wait to deploy so I can come back and teach the future Marines my experiences like my seniors have

done to me," continued the 20-year-old native of Chicago, Ill. "This is great training here and I'm definitely looking forward to coming back and being a leader."

The Marines and Sailors of 2/3 are attending Mojave Viper throughout November before their deployment in support of OIF.



Lance Cpl. Daniel Hilsdorf, squad leader, 1st Platoon, Company G, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, looks over a guardrail along the side of ‘IED Lane.’ The Marines were able to successfully identify eight IEDs as well what could have been potentially been an IED.



Hilsdorf observes a broken down car along the side of ‘IED Lane.’

Range focuses on safety with beach guards

Story and Photo by
Lance Cpl. Brian A. Marion

Combat Correspondent

With the sound of rifle fire ringing across base, one section at the range training facility, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, helps the facility avoid possible disaster.

They’re the beach guards. These Marines and Sailors look toward the ocean, watching for ships or aircraft that may enter the area.

“The beach guards will radio back to control when a boat is nearing the firing area,” said Gunnery Sgt. John J. Schidlmeier, staff non-commissioned officer-in-charge, Range Training Facility. “We will then radio the ranges, giving them a heads up that they might have to check their fire.”

The firing area is split into grids facing east from the left side of the crater, over to the right side of the Red Footed Booby Bird habitat.

Along with beach guards keeping an eye on the right boundaries, range control helps watch the right side to ensure no aircraft or ships slip through.

“We usually keep an eye on the right side buoys and radio the beach guard that vehicles have entered the area,” Schidlmeier said.

The beach guards radio range control after the aircraft or boat leaves the area, and say when it’s safe to resume firing.

Sometimes ships stop inside the firing area, and it’s the beach guards who radio range control, who in turn contact Waterfront Operations.

“If a boat enters the buoy section and stops for more than five minutes, then we will call WFO and have the boat escorted out of the area,” Schidlmeier said. “Even if the ships go behind the small island in the grid section, the ranges will continue to check fire until they exit the area.”

The furthest out a boat can be and still be considered inside the grid is the horizon, Schidlmeire said.

“If the beach guards can see the boat, then all the ranges except for Ranges 1, 2 and 6 go into check fire,”



Marine beach guards at the Range Training Facility aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii watch this stretch of ocean for any aircraft or ships that enter it while Marines are firing. If they do enter this area, beach guards radio range control and call a check fire for the ranges.

Schidlmeier said.

Range 6 has its own beach guards, and the personnel using the range must provide them.

“The field of view for Range 6 is a 45 degree angle from the building located there,” Schidlmeier said. “If an aircraft or ship enters their field-of-fire, they will call cease fire for their range.”

As for the beach guards themselves, they maintain communication with range control at all times and conduct radio checks every 30 minutes.

“One of the main reasons we want them to check in every 30 minutes, is because they’re by a cliff, and we want to make sure they are safe, and not sleeping,” Schidlmeier said. “We are looking to build a fence along the cliff face for their protection.”

The beach guards stay inside their bunker at all

times and take additional supplies when they head over.

“We ask them to bring food, water and, of course, the radio we hand them,” Schidlmeier said. “If they need to make a head call during the day, we will call for a cease fire, drive up to the bunker, and drive them back here since there is no head facility up there.”

The range provides beach guards for rifle qualifications, but when commands use the other ranges, they have to provide their own beach guards.

“If a command uses another range and has different beach guards each day, the new beach guard would have to come in that morning and be briefed on proper procedures while being a beach guard. It is our responsibility to provide transportation for the guards,” Schidlmeier said.

Adjust fire ...



Lance Cpl. Stuart C. Wegenka

Marines assigned to Weapons Company, 2nd Battalion, Third Marine Regiment, conduct a live fire mortar exercise during the Mojave Viper Exercise at the Marine Corps Air Cround Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif.



YOU have the POWER to PREVENT ABUSE

www.mccshawaii.com/advocacy.htm



AROUND THE CORPS

31st MEU Marines, Japanese soldiers build urban assault tactics

**Story and Photos by
Lance Cpl. Kyle T. Ramirez**

31st Marine Expeditionary Unit

NIHONBARA TRAINING AREA, Japan — U.S. Marines and Japanese soldiers cleared rooms from building to building, door to door, sharpening their urban warfare skills here, Nov. 13, during exercise Forest Light 1-08.

Marines from Company G, Battalion Landing Team 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit and soldiers from Japanese Ground Self-Defense Force 15th Regiment, 14th Brigade, Japanese Middle Army saw, learned and discussed and refined their urban combat techniques.

In front of a large crowd of Japanese soldiers and local media, the Marines showcased their Military Operations in Urban Terrain skills – the Corps’ style of urban fighting involving planned tactics and actions where manmade structures influence tactical advantages and disadvantages.

During the demonstration, a Golf Co. platoon cleared rooms and advanced from house to house occupied by enemy aggressors. The Marines used smoke grenades and simulated munitions to create loud explosions and provide a combat atmosphere.

Following the demonstration, the Marines and JGSDF soldiers gathered in a nearby clearing to review the performance and demonstrate other techniques used in MOUT. First Lt. Jim M. Buchanan, 1st Platoon commander and native of Trenton, N.J., explained the specific objectives and tactics involved in MOUT.

“The most dangerous place in an urban terrain is outside a building,” Buchanan said. “One of the main goals is to clear the buildings of any enemy and isolate that structure by providing security in the surrounding area.”

Master Sgt. Ohnishi Bunzaburo, JGSDF 15th Reg. mortar section leader, said the American technique has many similarities to JGSDF practices.

“In both methods, the squad leader is able to control each of the squad members to quickly gain control of structures,” Bunzaburo said. “One big difference is room entering.”

In high-intensity MOUT, BLT 2/1 Marines enter a building by explosive breach. Entryways are often blown with explosives because the enemy may have the majority of their defense posted behind the door, according to Buchanan.

During the Japanese urban warfare demonstration, there was one major contrast in tactics.

“In the JGSDF, four soldiers will line up on a door and the closest one will open the door, letting the others inside,” Bunzaburo said.

Besides room entry procedures, Marines and Japanese soldiers practiced room clearing, crossing danger areas, dealing with enemy prisoners of war and casualty evacuation.

“Aside from the demonstration value of this training, it’s also a good chance for both sides to practice an urban assault; the more we practice, the sharper we become,” Buchanan said.



Soldiers from the Japanese Ground Self-Defense Force 15th Regiment, 14th Brigade, Japanese Middle Army run in single file across a potentially dangerous street with the cover of red smoke while practicing MOUT Nov. 13.



Japanese Captain Matsumoto Hiro, Japanese Ground Self-Defense Force 15th Regiment, 14th Brigade, Japanese Middle Army interpreter, explains the use of a plastic explosive door detonator to soldiers from the 15th Regiment.

SUCCESS, from A-1

service members and provides activities, events and a place to socialize with people in the same situation. The program started in February, and has hosted events like movie nights, picnics and other activities.

“We’re just trying make it as easy and entertaining as we can for the family members of deployed service

members,” Bruns said. “It’s important to provide them with something enjoyable to do.”

Attendance for Operation Homefront events has steadily risen, and the family members are deeply appreciative, Bruns said.

“Seventy-six family members attended, from babies to mommies,” Bruns said. “When we did this in February, we had a little less

than 60 people. Now, we had roughly 80 people show up. They’re very grateful they have a program like this.”

Marine and Family Services uses Operation Homefront to help maintain a healthy lifestyle and healthy mentality amongst MCBH families.

“I really enjoy spending time with all the deployed spouses,” said Joslyn Anderson, mother of three. “I

think it’s great they have these programs. I would have appreciated it when my husband was deployed last time.”

With most attendees enjoying the event, many can look forward to the next family outing sponsored by Marine and Family Services, 5 p.m., Dec. 2, kicking off the holidays with the Kaneohe Bay Tree Lighting Ceremony at Dewey Square.

TROPHY, from A-1

to the hard work downstairs – from the pilots and air crew who flew their butts off in Iraq, and especially the maintenance department downstairs who supported us through the entire deployment,” Davidson said.

The squadron was equally appreciative for getting the award, Tillman said.

“The Red Lions had been referred to as ‘the quiet professionals,’” he said. “They appreciated being recognized for what they accomplished over there.

Somebody outside the squadron recognized what they did, and they felt pretty good about that.”

While it’s customary for the commanding officer to accept such an award, neither Lt. Col Allen Broughton, the C.O. of HMH-363 at the time of the operations in Iraq, nor Tillman accepted the trophy at the ceremony.

“I didn’t feel right accepting it,” Tillman explained. “I felt it more appropriate to have Marines accept it who were apart of the squadron during

their accomplishments. So, Sgt. Maj. Roy Smith and Sgt. Eric Roeder received the award for the squadron.”

Tillman said he is proud to be the C.O. of such a great group of Marines.

“The squadron that originally left for OIF was very junior, not very many qualifications, and when they had come back, they gelled as a team,” Tillman said. “So, I believe that it would have to be this group of Marines to accomplish this. They were that one group of individuals that allowed that to happen.”

PROGRESS, from A-2

and forth. I knew several brave Marines who had close calls. That was the stark reality they lived with.

I took a group of radio broadcasters to Buckeye on another occasion, but one reporter remained at the headquarters building because she was afraid when I explained the potential dangers to her. The head-

quarters building was hit by mortars while we were gone. That was one scared reporter! She was fine, but it illustrated the fact that you just never knew when or where danger would rear its ugly head in Habbaniyah.

Civilians were even more vulnerable to the violence. I saw daily reports of attacks and casualties. The streets seemed mostly deserted everywhere I drove, the

roads still blackened in spots from explosions, many buildings damaged or destroyed. That was life in Habbaniyah.

Now they are playing soccer. The article I read last week said locals were playing for the first time since the 2003 invasion in a soccer field that had been used for at least 20 years. It wasn’t just a pickup game either; it was part of an organized

league with 20 teams.

Soccer is a national pastime, and the Iraqis finally feel safe enough to play. What’s more, according to the article, Marines are safe enough to stand on the sidelines and joke with Iraqi players they know.

I won’t try to explain why things have changed in the last year or so; I just want to congratulate the Americans and Iraqis who have made it possible.

AWARD, from A-1

“The class is aimed at helping them understand it’s a big difference adding a family member to their home,” Hadzic said.

When Hadzic first came to the island, she said the people of the KV and LINKS programs

aided her and helped her take advantage of what the base has to offer. For that, she hopes to repay the community for being there when she needed it most.

“I know that if I made life on base a little easier for one spouse, then that’s thanks enough,” Hadzic said.

Changing over



Cpl. Rick Nelson

Lieutenant Col. Andrew R. Milburn, commanding officer, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, receives the unit’s colors from outgoing commanding officer Lt. Col. James W. Bierman.